

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An arrangement for running a warehouse, in which objects are stored in a plurality of stacks in a storage area, comprising
 - a) a collecting device being movable over the storage area in the warehouse, the collecting device for picking up the objects from the stacks, and a portal robot for moving the collecting device over the storage area,
 - b) an intermediate store on the movable collecting device, the intermediate store arranged in a fixable location above the storage area of the objects to be picked up on the collecting device to accommodate objects to be picked up from the storage area for filling the intermediate store by successively lifting one object or a plurality of objects from directly below the collecting device from various stacks in separate pick-up steps, whereas the intermediate store is arranged in the fixable location above the storage area as the objects are picked up; and
 - c) a gripping device arranged on the collecting device for lifting one object or a plurality of objects from one of the stacks, whereas the gripping device is vertically movable on the collecting device;

whereas

 - d) the gripping device is substantially formed by two mutually opposite blades, and whereas
 - e) the blades are only vertically movable with respect to the intermediate store while moving objects to or from the intermediate store such that the intermediate store accommodates the one object or the plurality of objects.
2. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, whereas the collecting device is divided into two mutually opposite halves which can be moved relative to each other.

3. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1 or 2, whereas the intermediate store is substantially formed by two mutually opposite side beams.
4. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 3, whereas the blades of the gripping device are mounted in the side beams of the intermediate store.
5. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 4, whereas vertical planes which are defined by the blades and by the side beams of the intermediate store enclose a space with a substantially rectangular cross section.
6. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, whereas the blades comprise on an inner side holding elements for holding the objects.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, whereas the intermediate store comprises at its upper end a vertically movable element which exerts a force downward on the topmost stored object in order to stabilize the stored stack.
9. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, whereas the intermediate store comprises holding elements for holding the stored objects.
10. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, whereas the intermediate store comprises, substantially at its lower end, a calibration part which corrects an orientation of the objects as they are inserted into the intermediate store.
11. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, whereas the calibration part is formed by two C-shaped adjusting elements.
12. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, whereas the collecting device comprises a plurality of intermediate stores.

13. (Previously presented) An arrangement for running a warehouse, in which objects are stored in a plurality of stacks in a storage area, comprising

- a) a collecting device being movable over the storage area in the warehouse, the collecting device for picking up the objects from the storage area,
- b) an intermediate store arranged on the collecting device to accommodate objects to be picked up from the storage area, for filling the intermediate store by successively lifting one object or a plurality of objects from various stacks in separate pickup steps,
- c) a gripping device arranged on the collecting device for lifting one object or a plurality of objects from one of the stacks, whereas the gripping device is vertically movable;

and

- d) a plurality of storage units arranged above the storage area in the warehouse and fixed in the vertical direction, the storage units are fixedly arranged on a portal bridge, which can be moved independently of the collecting device, the collecting device being movably arranged above the storage area on a further portal bridge, the storage units and the collecting device located opposite each other above the storage area and the collecting device moving on the further portal bridge for transfer of objects accommodated in the intermediate store of the collecting device directly into the storage units.

14. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 13, whereas the storage units are each substantially C-shaped with a base part running vertically and arranged at the rear, and two holding parts held on the base part, arranged centrally and projecting forward, between which the objects can be picked up.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A method for operating a warehouse, in which objects are stored in a plurality of stacks in a storage area, comprising the steps of
- a) using a portal robot for moving a collecting device over the storage area in the warehouse to any desired stack having objects to be picked up;
 - b) for picking up a stack part from one or more objects of the stack, moving vertically downward a gripping device arranged on the collecting device, the gripping device including two mutually opposite blades which are extended out of the collecting device, an intermediate store arranged on the collecting device, the intermediate store arranged in a fixed location above the storage area as the objects are picked up from directly below the collecting device by the mutually opposite blades;
 - c) gripping the stack part by said two mutually opposite blades of the gripping device;
 - d) moving only vertically upward the gripping device while moving objects to the intermediate store, so that the intermediate store arranged on the collecting device accommodates the objects picked up from the storage area; and
 - e) filling the intermediate store by successively lifting one object or a plurality of objects from various stacks in further pick-up steps.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, comprising the further step of securing the objects in the intermediate store during the movement of the collecting device against horizontal movements or tilting relative to the collecting device by securing elements of the intermediate store.

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, comprising the further step of securing the objects gripped by the gripping device, as they move upward, against horizontal movements or tilting relative to the gripping device by securing elements of the gripping device.
20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, whereas in order to grip the stack part, two mutually opposite halves of a collecting device are moved toward each other until the blades hold the stack part with a form or force fit.
21. (Previously presented) A method for running a warehouse, in which objects are stored in a plurality of stacks in a storage area, comprising the steps of
 - a) moving a collecting device over the storage area in the warehouse to any desired stack having objects to be picked up;
 - b) accommodating a stack part of one or more objects from the stack in an intermediate store of the collecting device;
 - c) filling the intermediate store by successively lifting one object or a plurality of objects from various stacks in further pick-up steps; and
 - d) transferring the objects accommodated in the intermediate store to a storage unit which is independently movable of the collecting device, the collecting device cooperates with the storage unit, a plurality of storage units are fixedly arranged on a portal bridge, the storage units are arranged above the storage area and fixed in the vertical direction, and the collecting device being movably arranged on a further portal bridge, the storage units and the collecting device are located opposite each other and the collecting device moving on the further portal bridge for transfer of an object or objects into the storage units.

22. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, whereas the blades comprise on an inner side holding elements for holding securing elements for securing the objects against horizontal movements or tilting relative to the gripping device.
23. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, whereas the intermediate store comprises securing elements for securing the objects against horizontal movements or tilting relative to the intermediate store.